

Appln. No. 10/748,856
Amendment
Reply to Office Action dated September 2, 2005

Docket No. 7202-52

REMARKS

The foregoing amendments and these remarks are in response to the Office Action dated September 2, 2005. This amendment is filed with a request for extension of time and authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 50-0951 for the appropriate fees.

At the time of the Office Action, claims 1-15 were pending. In the Office Action, claims 3, 8 and 10-15 were objected to for informalities. Claims 1-7 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Claims 8 and 10-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). The objections and rejections are discussed in more detail below.

I. Claim Rejections

Claims 3, 8 and 10-15 were objected to because of the informalities listed in the Office Action. Appropriate amendments are made herein, and withdrawal of the objections is thus respectfully requested.

II. Rejections on Art

Claims 1, 2 and 4-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent No. 2003-047195 to Nakatsuka ("Nakatsuka"). Claims 1, 3, 7 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,878,934 to Stephens et al. (Stephens). Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Stephens. Claims 10-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakatsuka.

The present application relates to the problem of how to make a synchronous electric motor that can be used as a spare part for existing washing machines. In one embodiment (see figs. 4-7), a pulley can be used (12, 12a, 12b), which is rigidly in rotation with the rotor (4), with its grooves positioned according to the grooves of the drum pulley. Existing washing machines have a fixed position of the drum pulley and this position cannot be modified. Therefore the retrofitting of existing washing machines is difficult because each model can have the drum pulley in a different

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position. An advantage of this arrangement is the use of a unique motor that can be connected with different pulleys in according to the drum pulleys.

A support can be found in the description page 7 line 26—page 8 line 5.

“The pulley 32 has at least a section provided with a predetermined number of grooves 17, while the remaining section 10 is essentially smooth. The pulley 32 is suitable for use with deep washing drums, e.g. drums having a laundry capacity higher than six kilograms. In these cases, the structure of the motor 3 is almost unaltered, but the higher pulley 32 allows to connect the motor to the transmission kinematism 6 even in appliances that have the supporting points of the motor 3 differently located, as shown in Figure 1A.”

In another embodiment (see figs. 8-12): a synchronous electric motor with a rotor made by the cylindrical casing 22, that is a tube cut into pieces, is connected to an end wall 36 and engaged by fixing screws 34. Perpendicularly to the wall 36 and integrally with the end wall 36 a sleeve 37 projects outwards from the rotor 4. The embodiment indicated in Fig. 8 has a pulley-sleeve made in a unique piece, whereas the embodiments in Fig. 10-12 have a removable pulley mounted onto the sleeve. These embodiments have an advantage that the motor can be made with the cheapest rotor. Moreover, and advantageously, the pulley, at different heights, can be used to meet the motion transmission requirements of the kinematism 6 of the washing machines, as indicated in the description page 9 lines 4-6.

Thus, the present invention allows a unique motor with a pulley of different heights to meet the grooves of the drum pulley and this is an important difference with respect to the synchronous electric motor according to the present claims and the motors described in Nakatsuka and Stephens. In particular, Nakamura discloses how to make a motor that improves the ability to assemble of an electrical appliance by reducing the spare parts. Stephens discloses a high-power motor in a small package, with an external rotor, used in the computer industry for digital tape recording. In essence, Stephen teaches a conventional cooling system that permits the airflow to flow between the flow holes 616 and the perforated cooling fin 614, as indicated in the description, col. 3 line 62 - col. 4 line 35.

Claims 1 and 10 are amended herein, and new independent claim 16 is presented, to clarify the differences between the motor of the present invention, and those of the cited prior art. For

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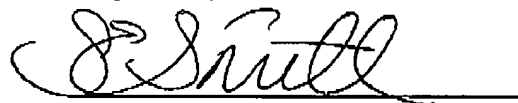
these reasons, claims 1, 10 and 16 are believed to relate to patentable subject matter, and to be in condition for allowance.

III. Conclusion

Applicants have made every effort to present claims which distinguish over the prior art, and it is thus believed that all claims are in condition for allowance. Nevertheless, Applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned if it is believed that a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the application to an allowance. In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims.

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Respectfully submitted,



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